

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

BIOS 126 is coupled to ISA bus 114, and incorporates the necessary processor executable code for a variety of low-level system functions and system boot functions. BIOS 126 can be stored in any computer readable medium, including magnetic storage media, optical storage media, flash memory, random access memory, read only memory, ~~and communications media conveying signals encoding the instructions (e.g. signals from a network).~~ When BIOS 126 boots up (starts up) computer system 100, it first determines whether certain specified hardware in computer system 100 is in place and operating properly. BIOS 126 then loads some or all of operating system 128 from a storage device such as a disk drive into main memory 110. Operating system 128 is a program that manages the resources of computer system 100, such as processor 102, main memory 110, storage device controllers, network interfaces including LAN card 114, various I/O interfaces 122, and data busses 104, 112, 114. Operating system 128 reads one or more configuration files 130 to determine the type and other characteristics of hardware and software resources connected to computer system 100.